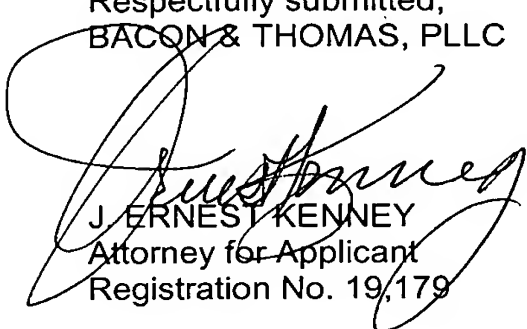


International Application No. PCT/EP00/08699
Attorney Docket: HOFM3001/JEK

been amended to reduce the filing fees and to restate the inventive subject matter in clear terms. None of the amendments are intended to narrow any element of the claims as they stood prior to amendment. Examination of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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International Application No. PCT/EP00/08699
Attorney Docket: HOFM3001/JEK

APPENDIX OF MARKED-UP VERSION OF CLAIMS

1(Amended). [An apparatus] Apparatus for depositing loose sheet material[, in particular] such as papers of value[,] and bank notes, [etc., having] comprising a transport apparatus [(2) for transporting the] arranged to transport the sheet material [(1)] and a stacking unit [(3)] for depositing the [bank notes] sheet material [(1)] in a deposit device as well as a strapping unit [(7)], [characterized in that] wherein the deposit device is [suitable for optionally depositing] arranged for selective deposition of loose and/or strapped sheet material [(1)].

2(Amended). [An apparatus] Apparatus according to claim 1, [characterized in that] wherein the deposit apparatus [contains] includes a movable plate [(4)] which is [disposed] positioned above a deposit bin [(6)] in a first operating mode and positioned outside the area of the deposit bin [(6)] in a second operating mode.

3(Amended). [An apparatus] Apparatus according to claim 1 [or claim 2], [characterized in that] wherein the strapping unit [(7)] is [disposed] arranged in swiveling fashion in a door of the apparatus.

4(Amended). [An apparatus] Apparatus according to [any of claims 1 to 3, characterized in that] claim 1, wherein the deposit device is [formed] configured as a tandem unit with two deposit bins [(6)] each having a stacking unit [(3)] associated therewith.

5(Amended). [An apparatus] Apparatus according to [any of claims 1 to 4, characterized in that] claim 1, wherein the deposit device [contains] includes a sensor [(11) for determining] arranged to determine the height of [the] an already deposited stack of sheets.

International Application No. PCT/EP00/08699
Attorney Docket: HOFM3001/JEK

6(Amended). [An apparatus] Apparatus according to [any of claims 1 to 5, characterized in that] claim 5, wherein one of the deposit device [or] and deposit bin [(6)] contains a vertically displaceable bottom [(5)] which is displaceable in dependence on the sensor evaluation and [the] a selected operating mode.

7(Amended). [An apparatus] Apparatus according to claim 6, [characterized in that] wherein the displaceable bottom [(5)] is lowered in steps in the operating mode for strapped deposit.

8(Amended). [An apparatus] Apparatus according to claim 6, [characterized in that] wherein the displaceable bottom [(5)] is lowerable continuously or in steps in the operating mode for loose stacking.

9(Amended). [An apparatus] Apparatus according to [any of claims 1 to 8, characterized in that] claim 1, including a deposit bin for stacking sheet material, wherein the deposit bin [(6)] for stacking the sheet material is formed] is arranged as a removal aid.

10(Amended). [An apparatus] Apparatus according to [any of claims 1 to 8, characterized in that] claim 1, including a deposit bin for stacking sheet material, where the deposit bin [(6)] for stacking the sheet material is formed] is arranged as a safety bin.

11(Amended). [An apparatus] Apparatus according to [any of claims 1 to 10, characterized in that] claim 2, including a movable clamping apparatus [is] disposed above the movable plate [(4)], said clamping apparatus being lowerable onto a stack of sheet material [to supply] and arranged to deliver the stack to the strapping unit [(7)].

International Application No. PCT/EP00/08699
 Attorney Docket: HOFM3001/JEK

12(Amended). [An apparatus] Apparatus according to [any of claims 1 to 10, characterized in that] claim 1, including a gripper [is provided for transporting] arranged to transport the sheet material into the strapping unit.

13(Amended). [An apparatus] Apparatus according to [any of claims 1 to 12, characterized in that] claim 1, wherein the strapping unit [(7) has] includes a printer for printing the strap with data relating to the sheet material.

14(Amended). A method for depositing loose sheet material[, in particular] such as papers of value[,] and bank notes, [etc.,] wherein sheet material is supplied by means of a transport unit to a stacking unit which deposits the sheet material in a deposit unit, [characterized in that the deposit is effected optionally in loose or strapped form in a deposit bin] comprising selectively depositing the sheet material in loose or strapped form in a deposit bin of the deposit unit.

15(Amended). A method according to claim 14, [characterized in that] wherein:

[-] for a strapped deposit a movable plate is positioned above the deposit bin, and the sheet material [being] is deposited on said plate until a predetermined number of sheets or predetermined stack height has been reached,

[-] the deposited sheet material is held on the movable plate and guided into a strapping unit with a clamping apparatus or transported into the strapping unit by means of a gripper, and

[-] the movable plate is withdrawn and the stack of sheets stripped above the deposit bin.

16(Amended). [A] The method according to claim 14, [characterized in that] wherein the movable plate is positioned outside the area of the deposit bin for loose deposit of sheet material in the deposit bin.

International Application No. PCT/EP00/08699
Attorney Docket: HOFM3001/JEK

17(Amended). [A] The method according to [any of claims 14 to 16, characterized in that] claim 14, including using a sensor [is used] to evaluate what height the deposited sheet material occupies within the deposit bin and in accordance with the evaluation lowering a displaceable bottom of the deposit bin [is lowered so far] sufficiently so that there is enough room for depositing a further packet or a predetermined quantity of loose sheet material in the bin.

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